

REMARKS

Claim 34 has been amended. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 21, 22, 28 and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cattaruzza. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “[e]quipment for printing on non-woven-fabric, comprising a support driven such as to transport a sheet of non-woven-fabric, at least one driven printing body in order to carry out the printing and a control and command unit operatively connected with each of said support and at least one printing body such as to detect electrical signals originating from said support and at least one printing body, turn said signals into numerical values representative of the status of their angular speed and torque moment, compare said numerical values with ratios of preset numerical values of said angular speed and said torque moments and send signals to said support and at least one printing body in order to correct any possible variations in said values which fall out with said ratios.”

Cattaruzza is directed to a rotary printing machine, not a process of printing on non-woven fabrics. The claimed invention, on the other hand, deals with problems due to the nature of the substrate to be printed. Non-woven fabric is a substantially stretching substrate. Thus, in a printing machine operating at high speeds, the fabric is subject to tensioning which may alter the performance of the printing operation.

Cattaruzza discloses driving means at all the rollers, with respective encoders and a check and control system. The check and control system only controls the rotational speed of the different motor units to synchronize the movements of the rollers (Column 3, lines 43-50). The claimed invention, however, has a control and command unit that controls both the “angular speed and the torque moment” of the rollers in the machine, as recited in claim 1. The control of the torque moment allows a correct tensioning of the non-woven fabric at all times in the process. The control of the rotational speed does not provide any indication or control of the tensioning forces the material is subjected to. The control of the torque moment strictly depends on the material

characteristics. When the material is highly stretchable, such as non-woven fabric, the simple control of the angular speed has been proven to be insufficient to provide an acceptable result. The claimed invention, however, provides for a correct and continuous control of the tensioning of the non-woven fabric web by controlling both rotational speed and torque moment of the rollers of the machine.

Since Cattaruzza does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by Cattaruzza. Claims 2, 4 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 21, 22, 28 and 32-33 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are allowable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 3, 5-6, 8-9, 15-16, 24-26 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaruzza in view of Takahashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 5-6, 8-9 and 15-16 and claims 24-26 depend from independent claims 1 and 21, respectively, and are patentable over Cattaruzza for at least the reasons mentioned above. Claim 34 contains limitations similar to those of claim 1 and is allowable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Takahashi, which has been cited as teaching a printer having a driven support provide with through holes which cooperate with holding means, does not cure the deficiencies of Cattaruzza discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 10-14 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaruzza in view of Takahashi, and further in view of Deeming. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10-14 and claim 27 depend from independent claims 1 and 21, respectively, and are patentable over the Cattaruzza and Takahashi combination for at least the reasons mentioned above. Deeming, which has been cited as teaching transporting fabric on a belt through which water can be separated by a vacuum, does not cure the deficiencies of Cattaruzza and Takahashi

discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 17 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaruzza in view of Takahashi, and further in view of Kurihara. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17 and 30 depend from independent claims 1 and 30, respectively, and are patentable over the Cattaruzza and Takahashi combination for at least the reasons mentioned above. Kurihara, which has been cited as teaching a widening function, does not cure the deficiencies of Cattaruzza and Takahashi discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 18-20, 23 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaruzza in view of Darel. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 18-20 and claims 23 and 29 depend from independent claims 1 and 21, respectively, and are patentable over Cattaruzza for at least the reasons mentioned above. Darel, which has been cited as teaching a printer having an image acquiring device, does not cure the deficiencies of Cattaruzza discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

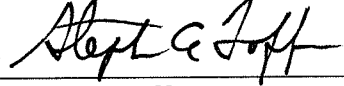
Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaruzza. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 depends from independent claim 21 and is patentable over Cattaruzza for at least the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Stephen A. Soffen

Registration No.: 31,063

Amy M. Kuo

Registration No.: 62,374

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

(202) 420-2200

Attorneys for Applicants